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Redbank Creek

Corrective Management Action Plan

JUNE 2020 | Newsletter #4

Project Background

Tahmoor Coking Coal Operations (TCCO) has been operating since 1979, and produces premium quality coking coal, which is combined with iron in the steelmaking process for production of steel.

Redbank Creek is a tributary of the Nepean River. It generally consists of Hawkesbury Sandstone bedrock with a progressive series of rock bars and pools. TCCO's longwall panels have extracted coal below Redbank Creek from Longwall 25 to Longwall 32. Longwall mining has caused subsidence impacts that has resulted in fracturing of pool beds, such that some pools only retain water after heavy periods of rain.

Subsidence movements within the vicinity of Redbank Creek have now ceased, enabling TCCO to plan and implement a remediation project to restore the pools within Redbank Creek.

TCCO have prepared a Redbank Creek Corrective Management Action Plan (**Redbank Creek CMAP**) that outlines the proposed remediation works including creek characterisation, pool mapping and pool rehabilitation works. The Redbank Creek CMAP has been approved by the NSW Resources Regulator.

Works have been developed in consultation with and approved by relevant government departments including, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (**DPIE**) – Resources Regulator, DPIE – Planning, Department of Primary Industries (**DPI**) – Fisheries, Natural Resources Access Regulator (**NRAR**), Wollondilly Shire Council and the Tahmoor Coal Community Consultative Committee.

Progress Report

Mapping of pools at Redbank Creek has been completed, allowing suitable pools to be selected for rehabilitation based on their individual characteristics and overall function.

Detailed surveying and 3D mapping of selected pools has been completed. Investigation boreholes are complete and pool remediation works has commenced.



Pool Remediation

Remediation of a series of five pools commenced in March 2020 and was completed in May 2020. Remediation involved drilling small holes to a depth of 2 m and injecting an approved polyurethane resin to effectively seal fractures. Polyurethane has been used successfully for creek rehabilitation in Sydney Catchment Authority areas as it has minimal ecotoxicological effects and has proven highly effective. Works completed to date have improved pool holding capacity at the pools and continued improvements are expected as works continue and natural flow is increased at Redbank Creek.

Weir Pool / 26 and Pools 27 to 29

Remediation works are scheduled to commence at a series of pools, as shown in Figure 1 overleaf. Works include installation of a grout curtain and surface grouting. A grout curtain involves drilling a series of holes to a defined depth across a rock bar. The holes are then filled with polyurethane to create a "curtain" that reinstates water to the surface.

This method has been successful at other subsidence affected sites, including *Pool 23* at Myrtle Creek. Downstream pools, Pool 27, 28 and 29 will undergo shallow pattern grouting to seal surface fractures. Works are due to commence in July 2020 and are expected to be completed by October 2020.

For More Information

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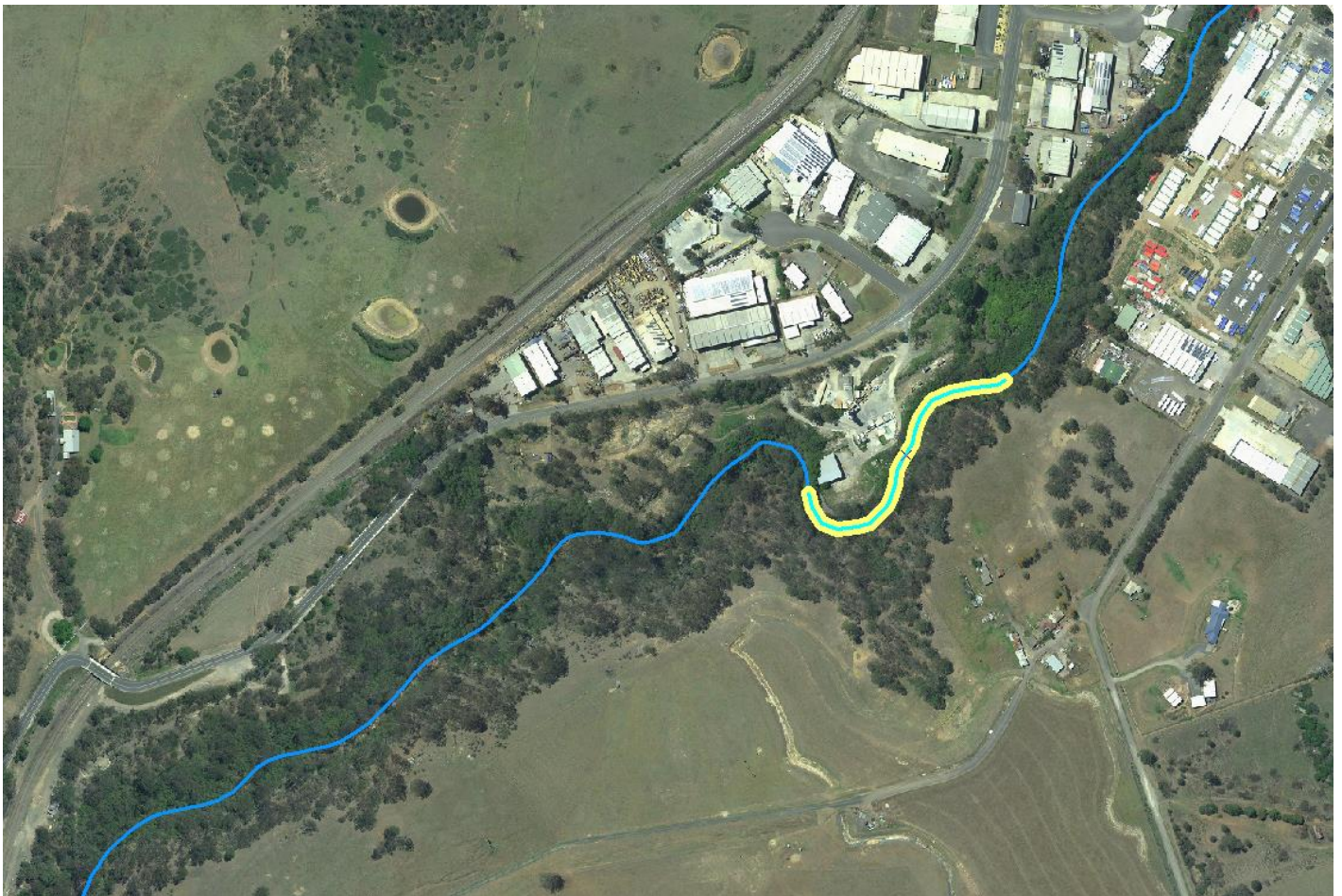


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Figure 1: Weir Pool / 26 and Pools 27, 28 and 29 locations



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